

the chamber wall around substantially the whole circumference of the opening and over substantially the whole first surface of the flange;

(iii)

an energy transfer means incorporated in the flange and situated adjacent to the first surface of the flange, said energy transfer means being adapted to heat the first surface of the flange in order to form a substantially fluid tight seal between the wall and the flange;

characterized in that the tubular sleeve extends from both sides of the flange such that, in use, the fitting can be positioned in one position on the inside of the chamber wall and in a reversed, alternative position, can be positioned on the outside of the chamber wall, and in that the fitting is substantially rigid and in that the first surface of the flange is a substantially rigid, flat, planar surface.

25. (Amended) A fitting according to Claim 22, in which the fitting is adapted for use with a wall which is of a material which is not suitable for being attached to the fitting by electrofusion, the first surface of the fitting incorporating an adhesive of a type which is activated by heat, wherein the heating of the first surface by the energy transfer means activates the adhesive and

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thereby bonds the fitting to the wall, said adhesive being a member selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic, thermoset, cross-linking and pressure sensitive adhesive.

Sbc 31. (Amended) A fitting according to Claim 30, in which the sealing member is resilient, and there is provided clamping means for clamping the sealing member to at least one of said pipe and said sleeve.

32. (Amended) A method of forming a seal between an opening in a chamber wall and a pipe passing through said opening, the method comprising the steps of:

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(a) applying a fitting to the pipe, said fitting comprising:

(i) a tubular sleeve adapted to pass through the opening in the chamber wall and further adapted to allow the pipe to pass through the sleeve;

(ii) a flange, extending radially outwardly from the sleeve, a first surface of the flange being configured to contact the chamber wall around substantially the whole circumference of the opening and over substantially the whole first surface of the flange;

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(iii) an energy transfer means incorporated in the flange and situated adjacent to the first surface of the flange, said energy transfer means being adapted to heat the first surface of the flange in order to form a substantially fluid tight seal between the wall and the flange;

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cont

characterized in that the tubular sleeve extends from both sides of the flange such that, in use, the fitting can be positioned in one position on the inside of the chamber wall and in a reversed, alternative position, can be positioned on the outside of the chamber wall, and in that the fitting is substantially rigid and in that the first surface of the flange is a substantially rigid, flat, planar surface;

- (b) applying energy to the energy transfer means and thereby heating the first surface to cause the fitting to become fused or bonded to the chamber wall in a fluid tight manner;
- (c) applying a sealing member to form a fluid tight seal between the sleeve and the pipe.

33. (Amended) A method according to Claim 32, in which the energy transfer means comprises conduction means for conducting an

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cont C1 electric current, said conduction means in use being heated by the current to cause said heating of the first surface.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection with respect to Claims 23-27 is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Concerning initially the objection to the drawings, by this amendment, numeral 66 of Fig. 5 has been removed and the references to elements 98 and 108-124 at page 13 have also been removed so that no further changes are required in the drawings; a copy of Figure 5 showing the change in red is also attached hereto. Accordingly, it is requested that the newly submitted Fig. 5 be substituted for the drawing of record.

With respect to the objections to the specification, an Abstract of the disclosure has been provided on a separate sheet. In addition the numeral 50 has been deleted from page 9, line 13 of the specification (and replaced with "so"). Accordingly, it is believed that the objections to the specifications have been resolved.

Turning now to the 112 rejection of claims 22-37, the claims have been appropriately amended to remove the terms objected to by the Examiner in paragraph 6 of the Office Action.